

men and women best: “. . . I always place the mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit. I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life. . . . I am an American Soldier.” This is Spc. Matt Maupin.

All of us are proud of Matt Maupin and his family, and we pray for his safe return.

A TRIBUTE TO NEW LOTS COMMUNITY CHURCH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of New Lots Community Church in Brooklyn, NY, in commemoration of its 180th anniversary and spiritual leadership in the community.

Around 1667, the area of New Lots, originally known as Eastwoods, was reportedly purchased by the Dutch from the Canarsie or the Rockaway Indians. The town of New Lots extended from what is now Highland Park on the north to Jamaica Bay on the south and from Rockaway Avenue on the west to Elderts Lane on the east. During the early years of the settlement, the most important highway in the area was the New Lots Road frequently noted in historical accounts of the Revolutionary War. In all this vast acreage of New Lots, there was no church. The residents had to travel by horse and wagon to Flatlands or Flatbush churches for services, marriages, and baptisms.

New Lots was part of a collegium of six churches sharing a ministry: Flatbush, Flatlands, Brooklyn, New Utrecht, Bushwick, and Gravesend. These churches are still part of the Brooklyn Classis. An elder and deacon from New Lots served on the Collegiate Consistory. Consistory meetings consisted of one minister serving six churches with a widely scattered membership. Rev. Malcom Evens in his historical sketch written for the 140th Anniversary Celebration retells how New Lots was built. In 1821 an “Act of God,” as hurricanes are often called, hastened a decision by the residents of New Lots to build their own church. The hurricane toppled many oak trees. The Dutch, noted for being a frugal and prudent people, accepted God’s gift of lumber. After the wood had seasoned for about a year and a half, they began to cut, hew and saw the trees in preparation for building their house of worship. Abraham and Cornelia Van Siclen deeded over to the building committee one-quarter acre of land on New Lots and Schenck Avenue. In 1832 a fundraiser was held and volunteer workers and well wishers came from near and far. Through the united efforts of the congregation, this House of God was reportedly built for somewhere between \$25 to \$35. This small colonial clapboard structure, unique in New York, was designated an official city landmark in 1966.

Wooden pegs secure this building of colonial architecture with timber notched and joined. It stands today as a tribute to the soundness of the craftsmanship of the Dutch people. In 1972, in order to meet the growing needs of the community, the church built the educational complex next door—The New Lots Family Center. Within the last year and a half an entire renovation of the Family Center was undertaken. Over the years, the church build-

ing began to lean and a large wooden truss broke in the ceiling. In 1990, the congregation was compelled to vacate the sanctuary and have worship in the New Lots Family Center until repairs could be made. Upon completion of the renovations, the sanctuary was rededicated in 1991.

The original and official name is the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church in the town of New Lots. However over the years, the church has gone through several name changes. In the early 1980s, the church obtained the current name of the New Lots Community Church, R.C.A. to be used as an assumed name. Today within these hallow walls, sons and daughters of slaves boldly bear witness to God’s Amazing Grace. In 1975, the Rev. Dennis A. Westbrook became the first African American pastor of New Lots Community Church, R.C.A. In 1979, the Rev. Dr. William T. Coles became the second African American pastor of this great historic church. He labored in the vineyard for 20 years ministering to members, friends, and the community of New Lots Community Church. In 2002, the Rev. DeLafayette Aikward became the third African American pastor. Under his leadership, the church is currently embarking on new and exciting ministries. New Lots Community Church has always been a beacon of hope in the community and remains actively involved in the community as they continue to strive for excellence in their mission to win souls.

Mr. Speaker, New Lots Community Church has been a source of community and spiritual leadership in Brooklyn for 180 years. As such, it is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable church and its congregation.

CONGRATULATING DAVID
SCHWAGER, AS HE IS HONORED
UPON COMPLETION OF HIS TERM
AS PRESIDENT OF TEMPLE
ISRAEL

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to my good friend David Schwager as he is honored upon the completion of his term as president of Temple Israel in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

David is a partner in the law firm of Chariton and Schwager. He is the past president of the Luzerne County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division and a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association House of Delegates. He chairs the Association’s Statutory Law Committee. He is a past vice-chairman of the Business Law and Real Property Law Sections of the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division. A past Assistant District Attorney, David is treasurer of the Middle District Bankruptcy Bar Association. David also serves as solicitor to District 16 Little League and The Music Box Players.

David graduated from Lafayette College in 1984 and received his J.D. from the Dickinson School of Law in 1988. David is married to the former Laurie Mersay, assistant vice president of First National Community Bank. They have two children, Max and Melissa.

Among his many civic activities, David serves as vice president of the JCC, vice president of the American Cancer Society Wyoming Valley Unit, vice president of the S.J. Strauss Lodge of B’nai B’rith Housing Foundation and secretary of the UHI School Board. A past president of the Wyoming Seminary Alumni Association and a past president of B’nai B’rith Lodge No. 139, David serves on the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority, a past director and officer of Jewish Family Service, and a past director of Junior Leadership Wilkes-Barre. David serves as a class fund manager and alumni admissions representative for Lafayette College.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and honor to represent a man who is so dedicated to serving his community. I ask that my colleagues pay tribute to David Schwager as he receives this well-deserved honor.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING OF-
FICER BILL CLEVELAND ON THE
OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE U.S. CAPITOL POLICE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Officer Bill Cleveland is retiring from the United States Capitol Police after 30 years of exemplary service;

Whereas, Officer Cleveland served his country in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and served his community of Alexandria as a respected member of the City Council for over 10 years;

Whereas, Officer Cleveland has been among the most well-liked and well-respected officers of the United States Capitol Police for his good humor and dedication to his job;

Whereas, Officer Cleveland will be deeply missed by many Members of Congress, their staffs, and his fellow officers.

Therefore, I join with my fellow Members of Congress, their staffs, and his fellow officers at the United States Capitol Police in thanking Officer Bill Cleveland for his 30 years of service to the Capitol Hill community and wish him the very best on the occasion of his retirement.

PROVIDING CBO COST ESTIMATE
FOR H.R. 4453

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, on October 5, 2004, the Committee on the Judiciary filed its report on H.R. 4453, the “Access to Rural Physicians Improvement Act of 2004.” At that time, the Committee had not received a Congressional Budget Office cost estimate for the bill, and it filed the report with a committee cost estimate as provided in clause 3(d)(2) of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives. Subsequently, the Committee received the CBO cost estimate on H.R. 4453, and I am submitting it here for the record.